

CITY OF NAPIER.

GRANT OF ARMS

31.3.51

TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these Presents shall come, the Honourable Sir George Rothe Bellow, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order Garter Principal King of Arms, Sir Arthur William Stewart Cockrane, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Clarenceux King of Arms and Sir Gerald Woods Wellaston, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, Send Greetings WHEREAS Thomas William Hercock Esquire, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire hath represented unto The Most Noble Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England and One of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council that the CITY OF NAPIER in the Province of Hawke's Bay in the Dominion of New Zealand was duly constituted under the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act 1933 and being desirous of having Armorial Ensigns and Supporters duly assigned to the said City with lawful authority, he, as Mayor and on behalf of the Councillors of the said City hath requested the favour of His Grace's Warrant for Our granting and assigning such Arms and Crest and in the same Patent such supporters as may be proper to be borne and used by the City of Napier on Seals, Shields or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms and FOR AS MUCH as the said Earl Marshal did by Warrant under his hand and Seal bearing date the Tenth Day of JULY, 1950, authorise and direct US to grant and assign such Arms, Crest and Supporters accordingly KNOW YE THEREFORE that We the said Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy and Ulster in pursuance of His Grace's Warrant and by virtue of the Letters Patent of Our several Offices to each of Us respectively granted do by these Presents grant and assign unto the CITY OF NAPIER the Arms following that is to say Barry wavy and six Azure and Argent a Fleece Or on a Chief of the second three Roses Gules barbed and seeded proper And for the Crest On a Wreath of the colours a Hawke's leg couped and reversed grasping with the claw a bone club called Wahaika proper as the same are in the margin hereof more plainly depicted And by the Authority aforesaid I the said Garter do by these Presents further grant and assign unto the CITY OF NAPIER the supporters following that is to say On the Dexter side a Lion and on the sinister side a Kiwi both Or as the same are also in the margin hereof more plainly depicted the whole to be borne and used forever hereafter by the City of Napier on Seals, Shields or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms IN WITNESS whereof We the said Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy and Ulster Kings of Arms have to these Presents subscribed Our names and affixed the Seals of Our several Offices this Thirty-first day of August in the Fifteenth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Sixth by the Grace of God of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-one

.....

NAPIER CITY "COAT OF ARMS"
=====

The Arms of the City of Napier, together with the Crest and Supporters, were granted to the City in August, 1951. This was made possible through the generosity of Mr Bert Wilkie - a Councillor from 1925 - 1929 - who donated the sum of £160 for this purpose.

The Heraldic description of the Arms is as follows:-

ARMS: Barry Wavy of six azure and argent a fleece ~~or~~ on a chief of the second three roses gules barbed and seeded proper.

CREST: A hawke's leg couped and reversed grasping with the claw a bone club called Wahaika proper.

SUPPORTERS: On the dexter side a lion and the sinister side a Kiwi both or.

In the Heraldic language the Coat-of-Arms are described as:-

1. "Barry Wavy" - a shield divided into an equal number of undulated bands.
2. "Azure" - blue
3. "Argent" - silver
4. "Or" - gold
5. "Chief of the second" - There are various sub-divisions of the shield of which the above is the top and the place of honour.
6. "Gules" - red
7. "Barbed" - the five outside leaves of the heraldic rose.
8. "Seeded" - the term referring to the centre of the heraldic rose.
9. "Proper" - in its true shape and colour.
10. "Reserved" - a charge with the upper part turned downwards.
11. "Couped" - used to describe a head or limb cleanly cut off from the trunk as distinct from "erased" which is ragged by being violently torn off.
12. "Dexter" - the right side of the shield as it faces the observer is actually the left, for the holder of the shield would be behind it.

13. "Sinister" - the left side of the shield, that is that which covers the bearer's left side and lies to the observer's right.

ARMS:

The Chief:

The three red roses in the "chief" of the shield are taken from the Coat-of-Arms of Lord Napier and Ettrick, a direct descendant of Sir Charles Napier, the hero of Scinde, after whom Napier was named.

The Shield:

The wavy undulated blue bands are the accepted heraldic symbols for coastal towns and denote tourist resorts and/or ports.

The golden fleece is the heraldic symbol of the wool industry of which Napier is one of the largest centres in New Zealand.

The Supporters:

The golden kiwi and lion, as supporters, represent Napier's dependence on New Zealand and Great Britain.

The Helm and Oak Leaves:

The helm and oak leaves are heraldic decorative features with no local significance.

The Crest:

The inverted wing and claw of the hawk are taken from the arms of Lord Hawke, one time First Lord of the Admiralty, after whom the province of Hawke's Bay was named.

The Maori Wahaika is representative of the Maori race of the district.

The full Crest is mounted on the usual Wreath which is coloured blue and white.

The Scroll or Motto:

The Motto "Faith and Courage" was adopted by the City Council from 150 mottoes submitted by Napier residents.
